

# **SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CHILDREN'S NETWORK CBO PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

## **EAST VALLEY COLLABORATIVE**

### **MISSION/PURPOSE**

The East Valley Collaborative is a community partnership, committed to sharing collective knowledge and resources to enhance the quality of life by supporting youth and their families through education and the provision of mental, physical and social services.

### **MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 21, 2003**

#### **In Attendance:**

Avante Simmons, CRY-ROP	(909) 793-3115
Rosemary Merrin, New House, Inc.	(909) 881-0395
Steffen Baldwin/Ed Hidalgo/Jose Soberanes, New York Life Ins.	(909) 888-1315
Sandra DeJarnett, First Nations Tribal Family	(909) 864-8884
Susan & Erik Zador, Mail For Me Club	(909) 794-9676
Claudia Hidek, Rolling Start, Inc.	(909) 884-2129
Nirvah Qualo, Hase & Associates	(909) 888-0149
Stephani Congdon, Bethel Community Outreach	(909) 757-7363
Yvette Perez, Computers 4 Kids	(909) 886-0883
Gerry Arce, VBI	
Ivy Lewis, imPACCT – LLU ERU	
Mickie Spencer, Department of Behavioral Health	
Astrid Mickens, Department of Behavioral Health	
Steve Kniffen, Somebody Cares Southland	
Richard Woods, Hase & Associates, Inc.	
Jonaye Thompson, Solutions Ed. Enrichment Center	(909) 875-5222
Rebecca Martin, Arrowhead United Way	(909) 884-9444
Robert Hernandez, PTCC	(909) 889-4399
Tiemeyer, (Mr. T) & Darrele McCain, United Christian Artist	(909) 938-2180
Gary Pena, Parole Division	(909) 383-4694 X2041
Michael Martinez, District Attorney's Office	(909) 891-3308
Mary Jaquish, CBO Partnership Program – Chair	(909) 387-9074
Tammy Williams, Children's Network	(909) 387-5365

#### **1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Mary welcomed those present and self-introductions were made. Mary announced Faith Carter-Michaelson is on sabbatical this month and possibly next month. Faith plans to retire in March.

The CBO Partnership Secretary, Marcise transferred to Public Works, so Tammy is the secretary for all of the collaboratives. At this point it is not known how the state budget will affect the County until possibly July, so work will continue as is at this point.

**2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

No additions or deletions.

**3. Approval of December Minutes**

Mary asked if everyone had review the minutes and if any corrections were needed? The minutes were approved as read. Mary mentioned that the resource information from Anthony Rubio the County Child Care Coordinator would be put on the web site. The childcare funding information will be included with all the funding information Mary provides each month to the collaboratives.

**4. Guest Speaker Gary Pena, Unit Supervisor – State of California Department of Corrections – Parole and Community Services Div.**

Mary introduced Mr. Pena she recently met at the Parole station and invited him to come and speak to this collaborative.

Some of the highlights from Mr. Pena's presentation were:

- Mr. Pena has worked in the field of Corrections since 1976 and spoke about at that time there were only 12 prisons in the state and now there are 33.
- There are mother and infant programs in San Diego and Los Angeles counties.
- The most violent criminals are at Pelican Bay and Corcoran Prisons. All the prisons have various levels of supervision.
- There are currently 600 criminals on death row in California.
- Mr. Pena works with parolees and really gets involved with their wives, girlfriends and children. His main focus is the children.
- The Parole station is located on 5<sup>th</sup> and Arrowhead in San Bernardino. This Parole station covers the area (Waterman to 9<sup>th</sup> Street, and Del Rosa to Meridan).
- There are 4 units with 49 agents, and 4 supervisors for each unit. Each unit has 700 cases.
- Out of the Presley legislation the Youth and Adult Offender Program was designed.
- The Parole Department is one of the largest state agencies that does not generate income, but costs billions to operate.

- The question was asked why don't the prisoners get rehabilitation while they are incarcerated? At least 50% of them do enter some programs while being incarcerated.
- Back in 1980 the County's Probation Department was not able to provide intensive supervision for the Parolees, so it was taken over by the State.
- The main function of the Parole Department is to make sure the prisoners return to society without jeopardizing public safety.
- Mr. Pena talked about the STAR substance abuse program that the prisoners/students must attend daily for 6 hours a day for 4 weeks has been pretty successful. Frazee Center has voluntarily provided lunches for the students over the last 5 years.
- All the parolees must go through a mandatory orientation meeting at the Parole Station before they are released. There is an orientation meeting every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. The community agencies are invited to come and assist the parolees and their families with various services such as housing, family reunification, food, clothing, transportation, etc.
- There are over 24 major social services providers and clergy that attend the orientation meetings. The purpose is to assist the families, since there is a limited budget from the State to assist the parolees.
- On an average in San Bernardino city 40 parolees are released weekly and about that many go back to prison for violations.
- There is a literacy lab is offered to the parolees at the 5<sup>th</sup> Street location. Also onsite is an Employment Development Department employee to assist with job placement.
- Mr. Pena suggested the community needs to write letters to the governor about their opposition to the cut backs in social services and what it will do to the community.
- The Parole Department works closely with the Police Department, District Attorney, clergy etc. and are able to go out and do home visits.
- Public safety is of immediate concern and Mr. Pena can be reached at (909) 383-4694 for any questions about San Bernardino Parolees.
- He mentioned they have on staff a full time medical doctor and psychiatrist, and a psychiatric social worker.
- Mr. Pena has only \$20,000 a year budget to assist the parolee with various fees, so that is why the community was enlisted to assist the parolees.
- The parolees are randomly tested for drugs and must go to rehab. If they test positive.
- There is a court order in place that all prisoners must be given medical assistance when needed.

- There are work programs within the State institutions for the prisoners and some of them make beautiful furniture that is used in the State offices.

## 5. Handouts and Round Table Discussion

√Tiemeyer (Mr. T) & Darrele McCain reported: Their program is geared toward the field of music and entertainment for youth. They can assist youth to develop a better self-esteem and be more bold when they go out into the world by being involved with arts and music.

√Avante Simmons of CRY – ROP reported: Their area of coverage is Redlands, Colton, Yucaipa and the east valley. Their programs are focused on youth and some adults with open entry and open exit. The hot careers they train youth on are medical and technical occupations. They have a grant through WIA (Workforce Investment Act) for the 16 to 21 years.

√Robert Hernandez of PTCC reported: They provide a positive transition-learning center for after school middle and senior high students that focuses on computer skills. Robert mentioned they have seen the youth improve their self-esteem by their creativity on the computers.

√Yvette Perez of Computers 4 Kids reported: They provide free computers for youth whom have gone through 33 hours of training. The youth send in an application form, a recommendation letter from a teacher, one page essay and a copy of a current report card with passing grades. The program is geared to youth whom do not have a computer in the home. Yvette mentioned they have a grant through Microsoft. They currently work with the Probation Department, ILP (independent living program) and would like to expand working with other agencies.

√Jonaye Thompson of Solutions Ed. Enrichment Center reported: They provide the following services: counseling services; drug and alcohol awareness; teen parenting skills; anger management; Family Resource Center for self help and basic skills; skills to improve grades and SAT scores; internet access to do job searches and help with resumes; and 14 to 21 years old go through a job training program of 8 weeks and then get hired at Factory to You, Pep Boys, and/or Wal-Mart.

√Richard Woods of Hase & Associates, Inc. reported: Richard is a Prevention Specialist and works with youth at Johnson Hall off of Medical Center Drive by San Bernardino Community Hospital. He works daily from 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. with youth on prevention, communication, and family skills so they can overcome some of their high-risk behaviors. He would appreciate any collaborative efforts to work with these youth.

The youth are putting on a play in April for Child Abuse Prevention month on alcohol and domestic violence. Richard will bring a flyer on the event.

√Rebecca Martin of Arrowhead United Way reported: United Way funds 38 agencies in this county. Work is ongoing now with 5 other United Way branches to conduct a countywide needs assessment and collection of data. The deadline is fast approaching so any information you can assist her with would be helpful. Rebecca asked that the agencies contact her at (909) 884-9441.

√Nirvah Qualo of Hase & Associates reported: She works out of the Rudy Hernandez Center on Lugo and Sierra Way. She works with high-risk students and trying different models to work with them effectively. She is working with some instructors at Cal-State San Bernardino on a project of having the youth paint a mural in a game room.

√Claudia Hidek of Rolling Start, Inc. reported: Claudia reported Rolling Start, Inc. is a non-profit that has worked for the past 25 years with the Department of Rehab. to assist all individuals of any age with physical, mobility, and emotional disabilities. They assist the disabled individuals with the following services: assistance in filling out applications for Section 8 housing and SSI applications; computer lab with special equipment so that the internet can be accessed; special equipment to accommodate disabilities; low cost services for deaf; free GED classes; provide a Resource Center; look for funding; advocacy roles in the community; teach sensitivity training; teach sexual assault and domestic violence prevention; etc.

√Susan Zador of Mail For Me Club reported: For the past 3 years they have provided terminally ill children at home and the hospital with care packages that have coloring books, etc. They also get other children to become pen pals and basically encourage the community not to forget these terminally ill children.

√Mickie Spencer of the Department of Behavioral Health reported: She is conducting a community needs assessment in the Colton, San Bernardino, and Rialto areas for the faith-based and self-help groups and have non-licensed therapists. She will share the directory once it has been compiled.

√Sandra DeJarnett of First Nations Tribal Family reported: They provide primary psychotherapy services for children and families through the CAPIT (Child Abuse Prevention Intervention Treatment) contract. You do not have to be a Native American to access their services. They have an opening for an LCSW or an MFT, please call Sandra at (909) 864-8884.

√Steve Kniffen of Somebody Cares Southland reported: Steve referred everyone to the 2 flyers on their Hub Partners and Backpack Order form. Somebody Cares Southland is a non-profit food distributor. They also assist sometimes with clothing and toys.

They have collaborated with the Emmerton Healthy Start Collaborative by providing backpacks filled with school materials for children in 12 different schools. Steve mentioned this collaborative meets the second Monday of each month at 8:30 a.m. Steve reported out of those 12 schools 97% of the children qualify for free school lunches. The trucking and warehouse space has been donated to them where they house food items, etc. Steve mentioned they were able to assist the Children's Fund with distribution of the Christmas gifts to CBOs in the community.

√Terri Larson of Somebody Cares Southland reported: She passed out a brochure on the (We Care America, SAMHSA WORKSHOP) on February 10 and 11, 2003 in Diamond Bar. The cost of the workshop is only \$25 and is geared for Faith-based & Community based organization (Learn How to Position Your Organization for Governmental Funding). She encouraged all to attend this very worthwhile conference.

√Stephani Congdon of Bethel Community Outreach reported for Noella Buchanan: Noella is busy writing grants and is on jury duty as well. Stephani mentioned that Calvary Christian School just got funding for infant care and special needs of preschoolers. Other projects Stephani is involved in are assisting the non-profits and assist the city and schools in the area covering Sierra Way and Parkdale. Stephani can be reached at (909) 757-7363

√Gerry Arce of VBI reported: Gerry works out of the Police Department on 'E' and 7<sup>th</sup> Street through the Value Based Initiative. There is a partnership between the police and faith-based community to assist the homeless in getting off the street. He is able to meet and partner with the community to provide services for the homeless. Gerry invited everyone to the Homeless Forum on February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Police Department on 'E' and 7<sup>th</sup> Street downstairs in the training room. Some of participants at the event will be community leaders, faith-based, banks, etc. Gerry mentioned that they are also recruiting mentors to work with youth. There will be training for mentors on March 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Police Department training room. There was further discussion about the Community Services Department having an event in March for the Homeless. Gerry asked if you could help, give him a call at (909) 384-5499.

√ Veronica Ingersoll of the Department of Public Health, Reproductive Health Services reported: They have classes for teens on reproductive issues. They also have classes for adults teaching them how to talk with their children about sex. They do have Spanish-speaking staff available, just give them a call.

√ Edward Hidalgo of New York Life Insurance reported: They will work with the non-profit agencies to assist them with their medical, pension plans, disability insurance, etc. They also have the Healthy Families Program with a consultant. There is 70 million dollars available with 80% of children in this state being eligible. The group was asked for their business cards. They can sit down with your agency and go over needs. Please call them at (909) 888-1315.

√ Rosemary Merrin of New House, Inc. reported: They provide the following services: substance abuse counseling for men and women; licensed child care facility; parenting classes; anger management classes; housing for sober living and transitional housing, etc. They are in the process of now getting a license from the State for de-tox beds.

√ Michael Martinez of the District Attorney's Office reported: Michael thanked a number of people and agencies that came out to the community forum he had last week, which turned out to be a great networking process. He usually goes and attends the Parole Orientation every Wednesday at 9:45 a.m. and challenged the rest of the group to attend and make a difference in the Parolees lives.

√ Mary Jaquish of the CBO Partnership Program/Children's Network reported: Mary reminded everyone to take a look at the funding alerts and other pertinent information in their packets. She wanted to draw particular attention to the funding information on: the annual award for Senior High students of low income families, can get a computer free when a teacher writes a letter of recommendation; there is also some transportation grants available for providing services to seniors. The Shine the Light Breakfast is on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. at the Ontario Double Tree. The tickets are only \$10. You are encouraged to nominate someone in the community whom has made a difference in fighting child abuse. The nominations are due **February 4<sup>th</sup>**; contact Sue Taylor at (909) 387-8966.

Meeting adjourned.

- 6. NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, February 18, 2003  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**County Superintendent of Schools  
601 North E Street  
San Bernardino**

Respectfully Submitted,

TAMMY WILLIAMS, Recording Secretary  
Children's Network  
/tgw